

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CEQ-01 COME-00 EB-07

EPA-01 IO-10 NSF-01 OES-03 FEAE-00 ACDA-05 ERDA-05

AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-09 SMI-01 /137 W

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R 280856Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8344

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2660

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, JA

SUBJ: LOS: 200-MILE FISHERY ZONE

REF: TOKYO 907

SUMMARY: JAPANESE STATEMENTS IN DIET AND PRESS ARE SPREADING WORD THAT GOJ WILL TAKE FLEXIBLE POSITION ON 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AT GENEVA LOS CONFERENCE. WITH TACIT UNDERSTANDING OF FISHING INDUSTRY, GOJ INDICATES JAPAN CAN LIVE WITH 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IF FULLUTILIZATION PRINCIPLE AND CONTINUED ACCESS TO TRADITIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHING GROUNDS ARE GUARANTEED. HOWEVER, DECLARATION IN FAVOR OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IN EARLY STAGES OF GENEVA CONFERENCE REMAINS UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY.

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1. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MINISTER ABE TOLD LOWER HOUSE

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE FEB 18
MEETING THAT GOJ SHOULD TAKE FLEXIBLE POSITION ON 200-
MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AT GENEVA LOS CONFERENCE. FISHERIES
AGENCY DIRGEN UCHIMURA TOLD REPORTERS SAME DAY IMPORT OF
ABE'S STATEMENT IS THAT GOJ CAN ACCEPT 200-MILE ZONE IF
LOS TREATY DEFINITION OF COASTAL STATES' RIGHTS IS COM-
PATIBLE WITH JAPANESE INTERESTS.

2. ABE TOLD DIETMEN HE DIES NOT FEAR ESTABLISHMENT OF
200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WILL LEAD TO SUDDEN FALL IN JAPAN-
ESE FISHING HAULS. HE SAID GOJ WILL USE DIPLOMATIC MEANS
TO ENSURE COOPERATION WITH COASTAL STATES IN NEWLY EST-
ABLISHED TERRITORIAL AND ECONOMIC ZONES, BUT HE DID NOT
RULE OUT PROBLEMS WITH DEVELOPING NATIONS IN VIEW OF
RISING ECONOMIC NATIONALISM.

3. LOS OFFICER DIRECTOR KUROKOCHI TOLD EMBOFF FEB 27
THAT RECENT GOJ STATEMENTS INDICATING FLEXIBLE POSITION
ON 200-MILE ZONE REPRESENT NO REAL NEW DEPARTURE. SHE
REITERATED THAT GOJ FORMAL OPPOSITION TO 200AMILE ZONE
AT CARACUS WAS PURPOSELY LOW-KEY. ACCORDING TO KUROKOCHI,
THOUGH GOJ WILL NOT MAKE FORMAL STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF
200-MILE ZONE IN EARLY STAGES OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, FLEX-
IBLE STANCE WILL BE SHOWN IN STATEMENTS AND DURING HARD
NEGOTIATIONS.

COMMENT: CURRENT FISHERIES AGENCY ATTITUDE RE 200-MILE
ECONOMIC ZONE REPORTED MORE FULLY REFTEL. DESPITE KUR-
OKOCHI'S STATEMENT THAT NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED, RECENT
STATEMENTS INDICATE TO US THAT GOJ AND FISHERIES GROUPS
HAVE REACHED CONCENSUS THAT PRINCIPLE OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC
ZONE MAY NOT BE TOTALLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH JAPANESE INTER-
ESTS. JAPANESE POSITION FURTHER REFLECTS UNDERSTANDING
THAT ACCESS TO BOTH TRADITIONAL FISHING GROUNDS AND NEW
AREAS MUST BE ASSURED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC MEANS, WHETHER
LOS TREATY CONCLUDED OR NOT.
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